



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6227.0.30.001 - Microdata: Education and Work, May 2014

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Summary

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

This product provides a range of information about the release of microdata from the 2014 Survey of Education and Work (SEW), including details about the survey methodology and how to use the TableBuilder. A data item list and information on the conditions of use and the quality of the microdata, as well as the definitions used, are also provided.

Microdata are the most detailed information available from a survey and are generally the responses to individual questions on the questionnaire or data derived from two or more questions and are released with the approval of the Australian Statistician.

The SEW is conducted in May each year throughout Australia and is designed to provide annual statistics about the educational activity and qualifications of the population.

AVAILABLE PRODUCTS

The following microdata products are available from this survey:

- TableBuilder – an online tool for creating tables and graphs.

Further information about this service, and other information to assist users in understanding and accessing microdata in general, is available from the Microdata Entry Page. Before applying for access, users should read and familiarise themselves with the information contained in the User Manual: TableBuilder.

APPLYING FOR ACCESS

To apply for access to TableBuilder, register and apply in the Registration Centre.

Further information on access steps can be found on the How to Apply for Microdata page on the ABS web site.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the survey and the microdata can be found in the various pages associated with this product, including:

- A detailed list of data items for the 2014 SEW TableBuilder, available in the Downloads tab

- The Quality Declaration and Abbreviations in the Explanatory Notes tab
- Other related products on the Related Information tab.

SUPPORT

For further support in the use of this product, please contact Microdata Access Strategies on 02 6252 7714 or via microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Data collected in the survey but not included in TableBuilder may be available from the ABS, on request, as statistics in tabulated form.

Subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints, special tabulations can be produced incorporating data items, populations and geographic areas selected to meet individual requirements. These are available, on request, on a fee for service basis. Contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or client.services@abs.gov.au for further information.

PRIVACY

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Survey Methodology

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

General information about the 2014 Survey of Education and Work, including summary results, are available in the publication Education and Work, Australia, May 2014 (cat. no. 6227.0).

Detailed information about the survey including scope and coverage, survey design, data collection methodology, weighting, estimation and benchmarking, estimate reliability and a glossary can be accessed from the Explanatory Notes page of that publication. All published summary tables, in Excel spreadsheet format, can be accessed from the Downloads page.

File structure and content

FILE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

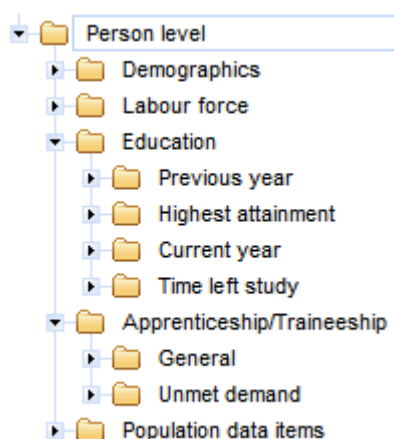
FILE STRUCTURE

The underlying format of the 2014 Survey of Education and Work (SEW) TableBuilder file is structured as a single person level. This person level contains general demographic information about each survey respondent such as their age, sex, country of birth and labour

force status as well details about their qualifications and other recent educational activity.

When tabulating data from TableBuilder, person weights are automatically applied to the underlying sample counts to provide the survey's population estimates.

The data items included in the 2014 SEW TableBuilder are grouped under broad headings and subheadings as shown in the image below. A complete data item list can be accessed from the Downloads page.



FILE CONTENT

Not Applicable Categories

Most data items included in the TableBuilder file include a 'Not applicable' category. The classification values of these 'Not applicable' categories, where relevant, are shown in the data item list in the Downloads tab. The 'Not applicable' category generally represents the number of people who were not asked a particular question or the number of people excluded from the population for a data item when that data was derived (e.g. Year of Arrival in Australia is not applicable for people born in Australia).

Table Populations

The population relevant to each data item is identified in the data item list and should be kept in mind when extracting and analysing data. The actual population count for each data item is equal to the total cumulative frequency minus the 'Not applicable' category.

Generally, all populations, including very specific populations, can be 'filtered' using other relevant data items. For example, if the population of interest is 'Employed persons', any data item with that population (excluding the 'Not applicable' category) could be used. While any applicable data item can be used for this filtering process, the SEW TableBuilder also includes some data items that have been specifically derived for this purpose. For example, the population data item 'P7. Persons aged 15–24 years' can be used to filter this population rather than the actual age group data item. The specifically derived population data items are listed in the data item list in the 'Population data items' worksheet.

Zero Value Cells

Tables generated from sample surveys will sometimes contain cells with zero values because no respondents that satisfied the parameters of a particular cell in a table were in the survey. This is despite there being people in the general population with those characteristics. That is, the cell may have had a value above zero if all persons in scope of the survey had been enumerated. This is an example of sampling variability which occurs

with all sample surveys. Relative Standard Errors cannot be generated for zero cells.

Using TableBuilder

USING TABLEBUILDER

For general information relating to TableBuilder and instructions on how to use the features of the TableBuilder product, please refer to the User Manual: TableBuilder (cat. no. 1406.0.55.005).

More specific information applicable to this 2014 Survey of Education and Work (SEW) TableBuilder product, which should enable users to understand, interpret and tabulate the data, is outlined below.

COUNTING UNITS AND WEIGHTS

Weighting is the process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each sample unit. The weight is the value that indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

As the underlying format of the SEW TableBuilder file is structured as a single person level, there is only one weight provided - a person weight. That is, all tables produced provide estimates of the number of people with particular characteristics. The **Summation Options** section in the **Customise Table** panel in TableBuilder contains this weight. As there is only one weight available the person weights will be automatically applied when producing tables.

CONTINUOUS DATA ITEMS

TableBuilder includes a number of continuous variables which can have a response value at any point along a continuum. Some continuous data items are allocated special codes for certain responses (e.g. 9999 = 'Not applicable').

When creating ranges in TableBuilder for such continuous items, special codes will automatically be excluded. Therefore the total will show only 'valid responses' rather than all responses (including special codes).

Any special codes for continuous data items are listed in the Data Item List.

ADJUSTMENT OF CELL VALUES

To minimise the risk of identifying individuals in aggregate statistics, a technique is used to randomly adjust cell values. This technique is called perturbation. Perturbation involves small random adjustment of the statistics and is considered the most satisfactory technique for avoiding the release of identifiable statistics while maximising the range of information that can be released. These adjustments have a negligible impact on the underlying pattern of the statistics. After perturbation, a given published cell value will be consistent across all tables. However, adding up cell values to derive a total will not necessarily give the same result as published totals. The introduction of perturbation in publications ensures that these statistics are consistent with statistics released via services such as Table Builder.

ZERO VALUE CELLS

Tables generated from sample surveys will sometimes contain cells with zero values because no respondents that satisfy the parameters of the cell were in the survey. This is despite there being people in the population with those characteristics. That is, the cell may have had a value above zero if all persons in scope of the survey had been enumerated. This is an example of sampling variability which occurs with all sample surveys. Relative Standard Errors cannot be generated for zero cells. Whilst the tables may include cells with zero values, the ABS does not publish such zero estimates in Education and Work, Australia, May 2014 (cat. no. 6227.0). and recommends that TableBuilder clients do not use these data either.

Data item list

DATA ITEM LIST

The 2014 SEW TableBuilder file contains approximately 39,100 confidentialised respondent records from the survey and includes around 90 data items that are available for cross tabulation (although some restrictions may apply). A complete list of the data items available for use, including relevant population and classification details, can be found in the Excel spreadsheet in the Downloads tab.

The data item list spreadsheet comprises 10 worksheets covering:

- Table of contents
- Data items on demographic characteristics
- Data items on labour force characteristics
- Data items on education in current year
- Data items on highest educational attainment
- Data items on education in previous year
- Data items on time left study
- Data items on apprenticeships/traineeships
- Data items on unmet demand for apprenticeships/traineeships
- List of population data items.

The 'Population data items' worksheet includes those data items that have been specifically derived to enable easy filtering for particular population groups. For example, the population data item 'P7. Persons aged 15-24 years' can be used to filter this specific population in tables rather than using the actual age group data item.

Users intending to purchase the 2014 SEW TableBuilder should ensure that the data they require, and the level of detail needed, are available and applicable for the intended use.

Conditions of use

CONDITIONS OF USE

USER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Census and Statistics Act 1905 includes a legislative guarantee to respondents that their confidentiality will be protected. This is fundamental to the trust the Australian public has in the ABS, and that trust is in turn fundamental to the excellent quality of ABS information. Without that trust, survey respondents may be less forthcoming or truthful in answering our questionnaires. For more information, see 'Avoiding inadvertent disclosure' and 'Microdata' on our web page [How the ABS keeps your information confidential](#).

The release of microdata must satisfy the ABS legislative obligation to release information in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. Therefore, in accordance with the Census and Statistics Act, a confidentiality process is applied to the data in TableBuilder to avoid releasing information that may lead to the identification of individuals, families, households, dwellings or businesses.

Prior to being granted access to TableBuilder users must agree to the following ABS Terms and Conditions of TableBuilder Access:

- understand that the ABS has taken great care to ensure that the information on the survey output record file is correct and as accurate as possible and understand that ABS does not guarantee, or accept any legal liability whatsoever arising from, or connected to, the use of any material contained within, or derived from TableBuilder
- understand that all data extracted from the Survey Output Record File through TableBuilder will be confidentialised and that, as a result, no reliance should be placed on cells with small values as they are impacted by random adjustment and respondent and processing errors
- inform the ABS, through their Contact Officer, upon leaving their organisation that their access has been disabled
- not provide their TableBuilder user ID and password access to any other person or organisation.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

All ABS products and services are provided subject to the ABS Conditions of Sale. Any queries relating to these Conditions of Sale should be emailed to intermediary.management@abs.gov.au.

PRICE

Microdata access is priced according to ABS Pricing Policy and Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines. For details refer to ABS Pricing Policy on the ABS website. For microdata prices refer to the Microdata prices web page.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ACCESS

Clients wishing to access the microdata should read the [How to Apply for Microdata](#) web page. General microdata information is available via the Microdata Entry Pages. To apply for access to TableBuilder, register and apply in the Registration Centre.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement provides participating universities with access to

a range of ABS products and services. This includes access to microdata. For further information, university clients should refer to the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement web page.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Microdata Entry Page contains links to microdata related information to assist users in understanding and accessing microdata. For further information users should email microdata.access@abs.gov.au or telephone (02) 6252 7714.

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About this Release

The following microdata product is available from the Survey of Education and Work, 2014.
- TableBuilder

To apply for access to TableBuilder, register and apply in the Registration Centre.

This product provides data on labour force characteristics, participation in study in current and previous year, type of educational institution, level of education of study in current and previous year, highest year of school completed, level of highest non-school qualification, level of highest educational attainment, and selected characteristics of apprentices and trainees. A detailed list of data items is available on the Downloads tab.

The microdata enables users to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data. Steps to confidentialise the dataset are taken to ensure the integrity of data and maintain confidentiality of the respondents. This includes removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual, reducing the level of detail for some items and collapsing some categories.

Approved users can combine information on educational attainment with labour force characteristics to enable analysis of transitions from education to work.

History of Changes

This document was added or updated on 29/03/2016.

29 March 2016

The Using TableBuilder page has been updated to remove some information which is no longer relevant.

Explanatory Notes

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|--------|---|
| ABS | Australian Bureau of Statistics |
| ABSCQ | Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications |
| ANZSCO | Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations |
| ANZSIC | Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification |
| ASCED | Australian Standard Classification of Education |
| CURF | confidentialised unit record file |
| LFS | Labour Force Survey |
| MoE | Margin of Error |
| n.f.d. | not further defined |
| RSE | relative standard error |
| SACC | Standard Australian Classification of Countries |
| SE | standard error |
| SEIFA | Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas |
| SEW | Survey of Education and Work |
| TAFE | Technical and Further Education |

Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

The Survey of Education and Work (SEW) is conducted in May each year throughout Australia as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household survey program. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including its legislative obligations, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

TableBuilder files are released in accordance with the conditions specified in the Statistics Determination section of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 (CSA). This ensures that confidentiality is maintained whilst enabling micro level data to be released. More information on the confidentiality practices associated with TableBuilder can be found at the Survey Confidentiality Page.

RELEVANCE

The Survey of Education and Work provides information for a range of key indicators relating to the educational participation and attainment of persons aged 15 to 74 years, along with data on their transition between education and work.

The type of information collected includes: general demographic and labour force characteristics, participation in education in the survey month and in the year prior to the survey; type of educational institution attended; level of education of current and previous study; highest year of school completed; level and main field of highest non-school qualification; transition from education to work; unmet demand for education; and selected

characteristics of apprentices including unmet demand for apprenticeships and traineeships.

The Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0) is used to classify the Level and Field of education. The ASCED is a national standard classification which can be applied to all sectors of the Australian education system including schools, vocational education and training and higher education.

As SEW is collected as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), persons excluded from the LFS are also excluded from this survey (see Explanatory Notes in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for standard LFS exclusions). Additional exclusions from SEW are persons aged 75 years or older, institutionalised persons and boarding school pupils. Persons in Indigenous Communities were excluded in 2014, whereas previously only persons classified in very remote Indigenous Communities were excluded. Persons permanently unable to work and persons aged 65 to 74 years who are not intending to work, or not in the labour force, or not marginally attached to the labour force were included for the first time in 2013.

TIMELINESS

The ABS has been conducting similar education and work surveys since 1964. These surveys were conducted annually, in February, from 1964 to 1974, in May 1975 and 1976, in August 1977 and 1978 and annually, in May, since 1979. Data from the survey are released approximately six months after they have been collected. Initial results from the May 2014 survey were released on 12 December 2014 in Education and Work, Australia, May 2014 (cat. no. 6227.0).

ACCURACY

The microdata generally contains finer levels of detail for data items than what is otherwise published in other formats, for example, in Education and Work, Australia, May 2014 (cat. no. 6227.0). For information on the level of detail provided, please refer to the data item list in the Downloads tab.

Steps to confidentialise the data made available in TableBuilder are taken in such a way as to maximise the usefulness of the content while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents selected in the survey. As a result, it may not be possible to exactly reconcile all the statistics produced from TableBuilder with other published statistics. Further information about the steps taken to confidentialise the microdata is available through the Survey Confidentiality Page.

COHERENCE

Results from the previous survey on this topic were published in Education and Work, Australia, May 2013 (cat. no. 6227.0). Data on earlier series can be found on the Past and Future Releases page or by contacting the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

The ABS seeks to maximise consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to its surveys. However, sound survey practice requires ongoing development and maintenance to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of collection.

The May 2013 SEW was the first supplementary survey to incorporate this online data collection method, where the option was offered to just over one-quarter of the SEW

sample. The May 2014 SEW is the first time this option has been offered to all respondents. For more information see the article [Transition to Online Collection of the Labour Force Survey](#).

For changes between iterations of the SEW, please refer to the Explanatory Notes. For a full list of changes made to the LFS, see Chapter 20 of *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods*, 2013 (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001) and Information Paper: *Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics*, Oct 2014 (cat no. 6292.0)

INTERPRETABILITY

Detailed information on the terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with the Survey of Education and Work can be found in the relevant web pages included with this release.

The Explanatory Notes section of *Education and Work, Australia, May 2014* (cat. no. 6227.0) should also be referred to as it includes further information on survey methods and design, comparability with previous surveys and summary results.

ACCESSIBILITY

Microdata products are available to approved users. Access can be applied for through the [Registration page](#). Users should also familiarise themselves with information available via the [Microdata Entry Page](#).

A full list of all available microdata can be viewed via the [List of expected and available Microdata](#).

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